"Hastings did not know it, but that night he sang like a man possessed. Audiences have not had the privilege to hear a performance of such power and beauty since that time..."

It's an alternate 1968 in which recreational drugs aren't illegal; in fact, giant pharma companies push them as regulated products with full governmental sanction to a class of drugged-out hippies that are nothing but cash cows living in a fake counterculture. Musician Simon Hastings of leading psychedelic band The Spheres discovers the true callous darkness of this arrangement when his band's singer is poisoned by one of these drugs — and it's clear the death was a professional hit. Through a dystopian landscape, Hastings determinedly searches for the murderer, with the help of a cast of eccentric psychedelic rock heroes. Hastings gradually becomes aware that true rebellion will require a lot more than just blissing out and making noise.

The Music of the Spheres is both a darkly comedic romp and a loving paean to musical idealism.

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